



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7440

ODESSA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 51-year-old Jose Antonio Acosta of Odessa, Texas, pleaded guilty this afternoon to two counts of transmitting video file images of child pornography over the Internet. He faces a mandatory minimum of five years in federal prison, up to a maximum of twenty years, on each count.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt this afternoon, Acosta admitted entering AOL chatrooms on October 6, 2005, and emailing sexually graphic movie files to a person he thought shared his interest in such illicit material. Unbeknownst to Acosta, the person to whom he sent the files was an undercover FBI agent in Buffalo, New York. A multi-month investigation commenced, culminating in the identification of Acosta as the perpetrator and the seizure of his computers. Some of the images Acosta transmitted depict adults engaging in sexual intercourse with children as young as three years old.

"Viewing and trading images of children being sexually abused is inexcusable," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton noting that the damage to victims can be devastating. "Those who trade these images create a demand for additional explicit material and thus destroy the lives of more of our most innocent."

Mr. Sutton added that the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative gives law enforcement another tool to aggressively identify and prosecute those deviants who exploit and abuse children.

Acosta has remained in jail since his arrest on March 24, 2006. He will be sentenced in October.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices in Buffalo and Midland. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen.

Project Safe Childhood is a new Department of Justice initiative that coordinates Federal, State, and local law enforcement efforts to prosecute internet predators and rescue their victims. Through cooperation with legal and community partners, this initiative will help bring criminals to justice and protect the most vulnerable members of our society

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